

NSC BRIEFING

30 May 1956

ITALIAN ELECTION RETURNS

- I. Unofficial Ministry of Interior figures (30 May) show a total of 26½ million votes cast in the weekend communal elections. This is some 91% of the electorate and compares with 24½ million votes in the last communal elections ('51-'52).
- A. In general, the extremes of left and right seem to have suffered, with significant gains going to the Menni Socialists... and the Democratic Socialists.
- B. Nationwide returns thusfar show votes only by major blocs, however, so that we are presently unable to assess these gains in detail. Percentages by blocs show:
- | | 1956 | 1951-52 | (1953 parliamentary) |
|--------|------|---------|----------------------|
| LEFT | 34.1 | 35 | (35.4) |
| CENTER | 33.4 | 50.7 | (49.6) |
| RIGHT | 11.3 | 12.3 | (12.8) |
| OTHER | 1.3 | 2.1 | (1.9) |
- II. The new election law (proportional representation in towns and cities over 10,000) has resulted in the Christian Democrats losing control over such major cities as Rome, Florence, Venice and Genoa. If the CDs are to resume control, they probably will have to organize new alliances with the Menni Socialists or the extreme right in these cities.
- A. In this connection, Menni in a 29 May post-election statement said: "The CD must now get down to brass tacks with us, and go with them".

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